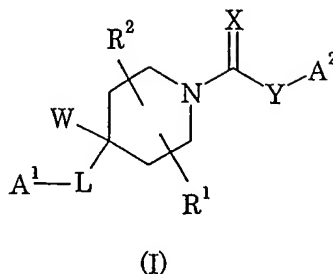


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):

5



wherein:

A^1 is phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing one, two or three nitrogen atoms, or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

A^1 is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three substituents independently chosen from halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, halo C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkenyl, hydroxy, cyano, nitro and amino;

A^2 is phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing one, two or three nitrogen atoms, or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

A^2 is unsubstituted or substituted by one, two or three groups independently chosen from halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, C_{1-6} alkyl C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, thiol, SF_5 , phenyl C_{1-6} alkyl and phenyl;

L is a bond or C_{1-6} alkylene;

R^1 and R^2 independently chosen from hydrogen and C_{1-6} alkyl;

or R^1 and R^2 may, together, form a methylene or ethylene bridge;

W is halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or halo C_{1-6} alkoxy;

X is O, S or NR^3 where R^3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, cyano, C_3 -cycloalkyl, a six-membered saturated heterocycle containing one or two heteroatoms independently chosen from O, N and S, and R^3 is, if possible, optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, halo C_{1-6} alkoxy,

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halogen, amino, nitro, hydroxy, phenyl, a six-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to three nitrogen atoms or a five-membered aromatic heterocycle containing up to four heteroatoms chosen from O, N and S, at most one heteroatom being O or S;

- 5 or X, together with the atom to which it is attached, and Y, form an unsaturated five-membered ring together with A²;

Y is a bond, C₁₋₄alkylene, NH or NH(CH₂)₁₋₃;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 10 2. A compound selected from:

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(pyridine-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylbenzyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

- 15 2-{4-fluoro-1-[4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl]piperidin-4-yl}pyridine;

2-(4-fluoro-1-{[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]acetyl}piperidin-4-yl)pyridine;

2-(4-fluoro-1-{3-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]propanoyl}piperidin-4-yl)pyridine

4-fluoro-4-(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

- 20 4-methoxy-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-methoxy-4-(pyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethylbenzyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-N-(4-isopropylphenyl)-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-{4-[1,2,2,2-tetrafluoro-1-trifluoromethylethyl]phenyl}piperidine-1-carboxamide;

- 25 N-(4-*Tert*butylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-(pentafluoro-λ⁶-sulfanyl)phenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

N-(4-Butylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

- 30 N-(4-Benzylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

- N*-biphenyl-4-yl-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[5-trifluoromethylpyridin-2-yl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-(3-chloropyridin-2-yl)-4-fluoro-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide
5 4-fluoro-4-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methoxypyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
10 4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carbothioamide;
N-cyano-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboximidamide;
4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-(1-phenylpiperidin-4-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboximidamide;
15 4-fluoro-4-phenyl-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
(+/-)-(syn)-4-fluoro-2-methyl-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
4-(fluoromethyl)-4-pyridin-2-yl-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
20 *syn* and *anti*-3-fluoro-3-pyridin-2-yl-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide & 3-fluoro-3-pyridin-2-yl-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;
4-fluoro-4-pyrimidin-2-yl-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
25 4-fluoro-4-(3-phenylpropyl)-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
2-[4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-benzimidazole;
2-(4-fluoro-4-pyridin-2-ylpiperidin-1-yl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole;
4-fluoro-*N*-[4-trifluoromethylphenyl]-4-[3-trifluoromethylpyridin-2-yl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;
30 4-fluoro-*N*-(4-methylphenyl)-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-(4-ethylphenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;
N-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)-N-[4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl]piperidine-1-carboxamide;

N-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-carboxamide;

N-[4-dimethylaminophenyl]-4-fluoro-4-(3-methylpyridin-2-yl)piperidine-1-

5 carboxamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds of claim
1 or 2, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof in association with a
10 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

4. A compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
for use in treatment of the human or animal body.

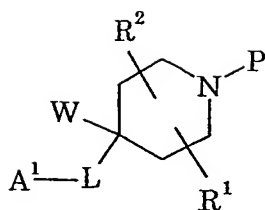
15 5. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or
prevention of physiological disorders that may be ameliorated by modulating VR1
activity.

20 6. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or
prevention of a disease or condition in which pain and/or inflammation
predominates.

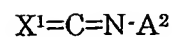
25 7. The process for the preparation of a compound of claim 1, which
comprises:

(A) for compounds wherein Y is NH or NH(CH₂)₁₋₃, reacting a compound of
formula (II) with a compound of formula (III):

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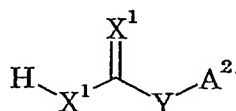
(II)



(III)

wherein X^1 is O or S, P is H or a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group such as tert-butoxycarbonyl and A^1 , A^2 , L, R^1 , R^2 and W are as defined in claim 1;

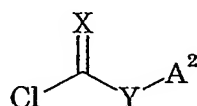
- (B) for compounds wherein Y is a bond or C_{1-4} alkylene, reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

- wherein both X^1 s are O or S, Y is a bond or C_{1-4} alkylene and A^2 is as defined in claim 1; or

- (C) for compounds wherein X, together with the atom to which it is attached, and Y, form an unsaturated five membered ring together with A^2 , reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (V):



(V)

- wherein X, together with the atom to which it is attached and Y, form an unsaturated five membered ring together with A^2 .

8. A method for the treatment or prevention of physiological disorders that may be ameliorated by modulating VR1 activity, which method comprises

administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a composition comprising a compound of claim 1.

9. A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease or condition in
5 which pain and/or inflammation predominates, which method comprises
administration to a patient in need thereof of an effective amount of a compound
of claim 1, or a composition comprising a compound of claim 1.

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